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inch, or the inch to the statute mile of $69\frac{1}{2}$ to one degree for maps (and the nautical mile of 60 to one degree for charts), we think it not unlikely that countries which do not use the English language and measurements will prefer the fractional or decimal system of the proportion which the drawn map bears to nature; as $\frac{1}{63360} = 1$ inch to the mile; or 1:63,360, an equation intelligible to the scientific of all nations.

Returning to the card. After the word "Engraved" we add the words "on copper, wood, stone, steel, by wax process," as the case may be; and, when possible, the name of the engraver is added, as in the older maps that is often the only means of identification. If the map is a copy of a manuscript, or one produced by photo-lithography or zincography, the fact is noted. Nearly all maps are primarily issued plain or uncoloured, so that the printed word "plain" suffices to state the normal condition of the map; if, on the other hand, the map is coloured, the words "by hand," or "printed in colours" are written in. The last line of all usually stands as printed, but frequently we add the sheet No. (as in a series of charts), or folio No. if in an atlas, or mark it out and indicate the form in which the map is in stock, as "muslin, dissected to fold," "roller and varnished," etc.

The subject here outlined will be found treated *in extenso* in an article published in the Library Journal, Vol. 27, 1902, pp. 74-76.

GEOGRAPHICAL RECORD.

AFRICA.

THE MASAI TO BE PLACED ON RESERVES.—It will interest all who remember that the great African steppe between Mount Kilimanjaro and the Rift Valley remained unexplored for many years because of the wandering Masai herders, who regarded all strangers entering their country as enemies, to hear that this superior people have so completely yielded to the British influences now predominating that they have consented to give up a large part of their territory and settle on reservations that have been selected for them. Sir D. Stewart was sent to East Africa, under instructions from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, to make full inquiry into the Masai question. Meetings were convened at which the British officials and the chiefs of the various branches of the Masai tribe were present. The result is that, with the unanimous consent of the chiefs, special areas are to be reserved for the tribe.

The northern and larger section of the Masai have agreed to vacate the Rift Valley and settle in only a part of the area they have so long occupied. Another region farther south has been assigned to the rest of the tribe. The boundaries of the reservations have been distinctly defined, and are now being marked out. A

Government station will be built in the northern reserve, where an officer, specially selected as a person who is acceptable to the Masai, will reside. The tribe will remove to their new settlements as soon as the necessary preparations are completed, and the extensive pastures vacated by them will then become available for European occupation.

DECLINE OF THE NIGER DUE TO FALLING WATERS.—The French explorer Fourneau says that the Niger is now showing more evidences of the desiccation that is gradually spreading over large parts of Africa than any other large river. It is the run-off for the waters of a great part of the western Sudan, where the decline in rainfall has been uncommonly marked for a considerable period.

The French officers Toutée, Hourst, and Fourneau proved the possibility of carrying supplies from the mouth of the Niger to the upper river, in spite of the long stretch of rapids about 500 miles above the delta. Hundreds of tons of freight have thus been distributed from the ocean among French posts in the western Sudan, and as late as last year some supplies were still forwarded by this route; but this highway to inner Africa, hailed as a great discovery when the French declared its practicability, has been abandoned this year. The water is so low in the rapids that no boat can get over the rocks.

At Timbuktu the French report that the water-level is slowly but steadily sinking. This is very apparent among the islands that divide the Niger into many channels from 100 to 300 miles above Timbuktu. As long as we have had knowledge of these islands some of them have been completely covered at high water, so that the native inhabitants have been compelled to make an annual sojourn on the mainland till the fall of the floods. Not a single island is now abandoned, for none of them is covered even when the flood is unusually high.

Fortunately for the French, they have completed their railroad from the Senegal River to the upper Niger, giving a new inlet to their Sudanese possessions.

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION IN SOUTH AFRICA.—The meeting of the British Association in South Africa, late in August and early in September, will be especially notable as the first meeting of a European scientific body in South Africa. It will be the seventy-fifth assembly, and under the presidency of Prof. G. H. Darwin. The programme will involve a great deal of travel in that part of the British Empire, for the meetings are to be held in seven widely-separated centres, to say nothing of the excursions. The sessions will be held in Cape Town, Durban, Pietermaritzburg, Johannesburg, Bloemfontein, Kimberley, and Bulawayo, and arrangements are being made in each place for receptions and excursions.

The officers and invited guests will number about 200, and many of the ordinary members are also expected to attend. The meeting will be opened at Cape Town on Aug. 15, when the presidential address will be delivered in the evening. The session there will last four days, shorter visits being made to other cities. A limited number of the members will make the journey from Bulawayo to the Zambezi to visit the Victoria Falls. Mr. G. W. Lamplugh is going to the Falls in advance to study the question of their geological formation, and it is likely that he will present a paper on the subject before the Geological Section. A party of specialists will also make an excursion to the ancient ruins of Zimbabwe.

Nature says that the South African Association for the Advancement of Science is preparing a handbook which will be a general review of the various branches of scientific activity in South Africa, the articles being contributed by actual workers in these subjects in that country. A copy of the book will be presented to each member of the British Association before leaving England.

THE ISLAND WORLD.

CELEBES JOINED WITH THE OUTER WORLD BY CABLE.—The German newspapers announce that the cable steamer *Stephan* has completed the laying of the cable between Menado (at the northern end of Celebes), Yap (at the west end of the Caroline group), and Guam. The German-Dutch Telegraph Company of Cologne owns the cable. Its length is nearly 2,000 miles, and the greatest depth attained was 2,300 feet. Menado and Macassar, the one in the northern and the other in the southern peninsula, are the two largest marts in Celebes. Menado is situated in one of the richest and best-cultivated districts of the Dutch East Indies, and has become prominent with the growth of the coffee industry, which was not introduced into the island until 1822. Yap is the most important island in the Carolines (German), and the collecting and distributing point for the trade of that group. The fact that those parts of the Pacific are now connected with the American line, giving them telegraphic communication with the rest of the world, will end their isolation and give an impetus to their development.

NEW ISLAND IN THE PACIFIC.—A few more particulars have been received concerning the new island that suddenly came into existence in the Pacific late last year, as briefly reported in the newspapers in January. The island has been named Nii Shima, and it stands in the small group known as the Volcano Islands, a little south of 25° N. Lat. and east of 141° E. Long. Its growth and the disquieting phenomena that accompanied it were watched by the natives of the islands Iwo and Sulphur, who did not pretend to enjoy the violent spectacles they witnessed.

The island, which is one of the latest accessions to the Japanese empire, is said to be 480 feet high and $2\frac{3}{4}$ miles in circumference. The first intimation of something unusual occurred on Nov. 14, when the natives above mentioned heard strange rumblings that they could not account for. Two weeks later clouds of black ash and steam, or, as the natives said, of black-and-white smoke, filled the sky to the east, and the sea looked to them as though it were on fire.

When the smoke partly cleared they saw what they thought was an island about 12 miles away. A little later there seemed to be three islands, and on Dec. 12, instead of three islands, one large island was plainly in view. It changed its form to some extent from day to day, and the spectators were anxious to know what would happen next. Finally, ten men summoned up sufficient courage to set out for the new island in a 30-foot boat and a canoe.

They reached the island on Feb. 1. They reported that the south coast was a precipitous mass of rock and they were unable to land there. The slope was gentle on the north, and they found there a boiling lake. They succeeded in reaching the top of the island and planted a flag with the inscription: "New Place. Great Japan. Many Banzais." The new island stands on the line of weakness in the earth's crust that is marked by volcanoes all the way from Fiji to the Bonin Islands.

A VISIT TO THE PEOPLE OF A LITTLE-KNOWN ISLAND.—Mr. Walter E. Roth, an ethnologist of Brisbane, Queensland, and also the Government Agent having supervision of the native tribes of that State, has recently visited Mornington Island, which lies about 30 miles from the southern coast of the large, shallow Gulf of Carpentaria, off northern Queensland. The fact that this island, which is about 35 miles long and from 10 to 18 wide, has never been explored is due to a number of circumstances. The island was discovered 103 years ago by Captain Flinders, who named its leading promontory Cape Van Diemen. A number of small islands are scattered around it, and years ago the British gave the name of Wellesley

Islands to the whole group and called the largest of them, which is also one of the larger islands of Australia, Mornington Island, after the second title of the Marquis of Wellesley.

The best maps show the outline of the island, but give no indication of its topography except to print through the middle of it the words "About 300 feet high." It remained cut off from the world's interests because it stands at the bottom of a great gulf hundreds of miles from the shipping that passes through Torres Strait and equally distant from the nearest enterprises in Australia. The neighbouring coasts of the mainland are very swampy, and Leichhardt is the only Australian explorer who ever came within 50 or 60 miles of it. The gulf is so shallow that large vessels cannot navigate it; and as there seemed to be no commercial prize in view, the island was left in its isolation entirely outside the current of the world's affairs.

The natives of northern Australia reported, about 15 years ago, that a black from the island had come to them on a rough raft made by lashing small timbers together. They understood his dialect with difficulty, but got the idea that many persons lived on the island. He soon returned to his home.

According to the Brisbane newspapers, Mr. Roth has returned from a visit to the island, and says that the people, perhaps 500 in number, whom he met there, have apparently had no intercourse with the outside world for many generations. They have forgotten most of the rude arts their fathers may have brought from the Australian mainland, and are inferior in their conditions of life to the continental aborigines, of whom they are evidently an offshoot. Mr. Roth found the coast lands very swampy, and apparently did not penetrate far into the island. The natives fled at his approach, and it was only by patient diplomacy that two of them were finally induced to enter his camp. Others came in gradually, and at length about 200 were grouped around the visitors.

Through natives he had brought with him Mr. Roth was able to have a little conversation with the islanders. He found their way of life very primitive, even as compared with that of other Australasians. They are skilful in the use of their boomerangs and wooden javelins, but are far behind all the other natives of islands in that part of the world in the art of navigation. Their boats are nothing but the rudest log rafts, propelled by poling or paddling. They wear no clothing of any description. They live out in the open without even the most rudimentary shelter, and when protection is at times necessary they content themselves with making heaps of more or less dry vegetation, into which they crawl. They have no idea of the art of plaiting, and therefore lack the baskets in which many savage folk carry food and other articles. They transport their belongings by tying them up in bits of bark.

They live entirely on wild fruits, fish, and game, and have apparently not the slightest conception of agriculture. They are good hunters and fishermen, and know the use of fire in cookery, producing a blaze by the friction of two pieces of wood. These poor people seemed to Mr. Roth to be very simple and child-like, and showed no evidence of treachery or malice, but they were easily frightened. They were somewhat alarmed when the white man lit his pipe, and begged to know why he had set his mouth on fire. Many tin whistles which were distributed among them gave so much entertainment that, when the supply gave out, a few parents offered children in exchange for these musical instruments.

POLAR.

ARCTIC CRUISE OF THE DUC D'ORLÉANS.—Having chartered the *Belgica*, and secured the services of Captain Gerlache to command the ship, the Duc d'Orléans

and his party left Sandefjord on May 6 for Bergen and Shannon Island, off the east coast of Greenland. The party intend to spend the summer cruising in the Arctic Ocean, between Spitzbergen and Greenland, and to carry on some oceanographic studies. It is not the intention to winter in the Arctic, though the vessel is provisioned for the unexpected contingency of being detained next winter by the ice conditions. The Duke will visit Shannon Island to see if the members of the Ziegler Expedition reached that place, where a depot of provisions had been left for them in case their fortunes should lead them to or near the east Greenland coast. If he should find the members of the party they are to return with him to Europe. The Duke's party includes a number of French scientific men and Norwegian sailors. If all goes well the *Belgica* is expected to return in September.

SOME RESULTS OF THE BRITISH ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION.—Five papers by members of the *Discovery* Expedition, printed in the April number of the *Geographical Journal*, sum up in a preliminary way the leading results of the two years' work, and include facts of value that had not hitherto been made public. The general geography of the Victoria Land region is treated by Captain Scott; the physical geography by Mr. Ferrar; meteorology by Lieut. Royds; seals and birds by Dr. Wilson; and the marine biological collections by Mr. Hodgson. A paper is also contributed by Capt. Colbeck on the Antarctic sea-ice. In this paper he includes a discussion of the observations made by the *Southern Cross* Expedition in 1898-1900, and by the relief party in the *Morning* in 1902-4.

Among the chief problems were the remarkable ice conditions, described by Capt. Scott and Mr. Ferrar, which are certain to attract much attention among physical geographers. Capt. Scott says that though there are innumerable glaciers on the coast of Victoria Land, most of them merely discharge local névé fields lying in the valleys of the coastal ranges. Very few run back to the inland ice, and these may be divided into two classes—the living and the dead. In the long stretch of coast between Cape Adare and Mount Longstaff, over 11° of latitude, there appear to be only four living ice discharges from the inland.

He says that the Ferrar glacier is typical of the dead glaciers. The ice in the valley is practically stationary and gradually wasting away from the summer thawing. This glacier probably contains as much ice as any hitherto known, and the Barne and Shackleton glaciers contain a great deal more. They are now in a greatly diminished state, and it is interesting to think what vast streams of ice they must have been at their maximum.

Capt. Scott submits the conjecture that the inland ice once stood from 400 to 500 feet above its present level. He also says, referring to the Great Barrier, that its edge, sixty years ago, was in advance of its present position, in places as much as 20 or 30 miles.

Many other facts given seem to confirm these generalizations, and, taken with the moraines and erratics seen by Mr. Ferrar and Dr. Wilson high above the present level of the ice-sheet, go to show that "the majority of curious and often vast ice formations met with in the Ross Sea must be regarded, not as the result of present-day conditions, but as the rapidly-wasting remnants of a former age."

These facts are believed to prove beyond doubt that the ice in at least this part of the Antarctic regions is in a state of fairly rapid retreat, and it is known that the same thing is happening in the Arctic regions. It is very significant that Dr. Otto Nordenskjöld, in his recent book, reports a similar retrogression of the ice masses in West Antarctica, as the Graham Land region is now called.

Mr. Ferrar reports that denudation is at present playing a comparatively unim-

portant part in determining the features of the landscape. The Royal Society Range, indeed, shows some rounded rock surfaces, due to the grinding of ice or of the rock matter carried along by ice, but no evidences of similar "ice work" were seen near winter quarters. The splitting of rocks, due to the percolation of water, which expands on freezing, is at present the most important factor in the denudation of the land.

The geological study of the Royal Society Range, a little inland from the winter quarters, showed a gneissic platform, probably of Archæan age, and above it in order are granites of two ages, and sandstone 2,000 feet thick, with basalt capping the sandstone, the whole forming plateaux that have been dissected by denudation, and probably also broken up by faulting. At the base of the basalt is a thin carboniferous seam not more than an eighth of an inch in thickness. It was agreed that this seam must be due to vegetation, but the plant remains could not be identified.

Dr. Wilson records that the Weddell seal is more often met near the land than any other. He thinks there is little prospect of a profitable Antarctic seal fishery, though there is an increased demand for the skins of the hair seals; but these skins rarely escape defacement by the wounds inflicted by the killer whale.

Mr. Hodgson reported on the biological collections that everything goes to show that animal life is very abundant in the southern seas, and the Ross Sea is still an exceedingly rich area for the biologist. The large collections of the *Discovery* are now in the hands of experts for description. The three voyages of Capt. Colbeck have convinced him that ships going south for geographical work during the summer should enter the pack between 178° and 180° E. Long, as early in December as possible, the ice there being lighter and more open than elsewhere.

GENERAL.

DEFORESTATION AND CLIMATE.—Whether forests have an important influence upon climate is an old question which has not yet been satisfactorily settled. Dr. Hennig gave an address on the subject before the May meeting in Berlin of the German Meteorological Society, in which he claimed only that dense forests favour moisture and prevent the drying out of soils to a considerable extent, and adduced a number of coincidences where the depletion of the forests appears to be attended by drier conditions. According to Consul-General Günther, of Frankfort, who has summarized the address for the *Consular Reports*, Dr. Hennig said that the climate of Greece, where to-day only 16 per cent. of the area is covered with forests, has become drier. An increase of temperature and decrease of rain are noted, as compared with ancient times. This is especially noteworthy in Attica, which was thickly covered with forests about 3,000 years ago, and where hardly any rain now falls; while the heat in the open air attains a degree of intensity that would make the indulgence in athletic sports, once famous, now almost an impossibility.

Similar conditions exist in the Peninsula of Sinai, where thousands of years ago the people of Israel found a luxuriant and fertile country, though to-day it is a desert. Palmyra, also once a flourishing oasis in the Syrian desert, presents to-day only a waste of stones and ruins. In Mexico, where the Spaniards cut down the forests in the mountains, droughts changing to devastating floods are now noticeable, especially in the neighbourhood of the City of Mexico. In Algeria, where, since the middle of the last century, the forests have been cut down on a large scale, dry weather has increased; and in Venezuela the level of Lake Tacarigua, to which Alexander von Humboldt drew attention, has been lowered in consequence, it is said, of deforestation.

THE CENTENARY OF DON QUIXOTE.—Under this heading the *Boletín* of the Royal Geographical Society of Madrid presents the second (enlarged) edition of a work first printed in 1840, under the title of *The Geographical Skill of Miguel de Cervantes*, by Don Fermin Caballero, supplemented by two later writings of his—one, *The Country of Don Quixote*, the other, the *Map of the Field of Montiel*.

A short paper on the *Geographical Knowledge of Cervantes*, by Don Cesáreo Fernández Duro, serves as an introduction to the others.

All these may be read with pleasure, if not with conviction. Men will continue to find what they look for in Cervantes and Shakespeare, and too often without the saving grace of humour to keep them within bounds. A plate designed by Señor Caballero, with the inscription, *Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra occupying his place among geographers*, shows the globe in the centre, with the name Cervantes across it and the names of forty-eight geographers distributed in the spaces between lines radiating from the globe.

The fitting comment on such extravagance is the famous line,

Voto á Dios que me espanta esta grandeza.

OBITUARY.

PROFESSOR ÉLISÉE RECLUS.—Scientific men all over the world will learn with the deepest regret of the death of Élisée Reclus, who will always be remembered as one of the great geographers of the nineteenth century. His death occurred at Brussels on July 7. He had been Professor of Geography at the University of Brussels since 1894. He was born at Saint-Foy-la Grande, Gironde, in 1830, and laid the foundation of his geographical education under the guidance of Karl Ritter, with whom he studied for several years at the University of Berlin. Soon after the close of his school studies he travelled widely in Europe and America, practically applying the principles he had acquired by six years of geographical field study, which, in the Western world, was extended over the United States, Central America, and parts of South America. He wrote a number of articles in French reviews on the results of his studies abroad.

His socialistic ideas were held in France to be dangerous, and when, in 1871, he published a very severe arraignment of the French Government and cast his lot with the insurgent National Guard, he was kept a prisoner for some time, and finally sentenced to be transported for life to New Caledonia. The scientific men of many countries protested against the imposition of this terrible penalty, which would end the usefulness of a great geographer and be a distinct loss to science. As a result of this protest the sentence was modified to banishment, and most of the remainder of Reclus's life was spent in Switzerland and Belgium. He was, however, permitted to return to France when amnesty was extended to all the Communists in 1879, but later he was condemned at Lyons as an associate of Prince Kropotkin, the distinguished Russian geographer, in the organization of an anarchist movement, and he escaped arrest only by again taking refuge in Switzerland.

While in Switzerland he began the composition of his monumental work, the "Nouvelle Géographie Universelle," which was translated into English under the title of "The Earth and its Inhabitants." The work, published in parts as he wrote it, contained about 3,500 maps and many other illustrations. It was a treatise in nineteen large volumes on the geography of the earth and the social and economic development of its inhabitants. This work, the result of the enormous labour, the rare knowledge, and geographical gifts of its author, though not wholly free from error, and not accepted in all its statements and theories, has been justly regarded as

one of the greatest of geographical productions. Its preparation occupied twenty years of the author's life. Reclus revisited the United States in 1891 to collect material for his volume on this country. The last to be written were the two volumes on South America, and at the conclusion of the work Reclus wrote "A Parting Word" to his readers, in which he said:

I may congratulate myself on the good fortune by which, in the course of a life not lacking in stirring incidents, I have been enabled to fulfill my engagements of regular publication without ever once breaking faith with my readers.

Reclus was endowed with rare scientific qualities, and possessed a literary gift that interested most readers in all that he wrote. This happy combination made him one of the most widely read of geographers.

THE BIBLIOTECA NAZIONALE CENTRALE of Florence announces, under date of June 8, the death of Comm. DESIDERIO CHILOVI, its chief Librarian for the past twenty years.

THE ROYAL BOHEMIAN SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY, of Prague, reports the death, on the 12th of June, in his 88th year, of W. W. RITTER VON TOMEK, the oldest member of the Society, and for many years President of the Imp.-Royal Government Council.

WILLIAM ZIEGLER.—Mr. Ziegler died at his summer home in Connecticut on May 24. He had been in excellent health until the previous November, when he was thrown from his carriage and severely injured. Born in Beaver County, Pennsylvania, in 1843, he made his own way, soon developed remarkable talents for business, and, before reaching middle age, accumulated a large fortune. He became known to geographers about five years ago through his zealous promotion of north polar explorations under his own management and solely supported by him. His desire was that the North Pole should be reached by one of his expeditions, and he was willing to spend money without stint to achieve his ambition.

He chose the Franz Josef Land route for his attack on the Pole, in spite of the fact that it had not recently been viewed with much favour. His first expedition, commanded by Mr. Baldwin, reached Franz Josef Land in 1901, but failed to make any important nothing, and returned in the summer of 1902. In 1903 the second expedition under Mr. Fiala started north, and succeeded in getting into the heavy ice of Barents Sea, where it is possible their ship may have drifted to Franz Josef Land; but nothing has been heard from the party, as the relief expedition of 1904 was prevented by the ice from getting north. At the time of his death Mr. Ziegler had just completed arrangements for this year's relief expedition, which started from Norway late in June on the *Terra Nova*, in charge of Mr. W. S. Champ. It is said that Mr. Ziegler instructed the executors of his estate to continue the work of his polar expeditions.

NEW MAPS.

AFRICA.

AFRICA.—Map of Africa. Scale: 1,000,000, or 15.7 statute miles to an inch. Sheet 71 (Monrovia). Intelligence Division of the War Office, London, 1905.

Includes most of Liberia, and a part of the Ivory Coast. A note says that, excepting the Anglo-Liberian frontier, no part of the area has been surveyed, and the positions of villages, rivers, and hills are only approximate. About two-thirds of